A Guide to the Cultivated Gesneriads (review)*.—Rarely does a scientific book achieve the happy medium of being acceptable both to the student and the interested layman. Dr. H. E. Moore's book is the rare exception —never becoming too technical for the amateur, yet remaining sufficiently concise and authoritative for the student.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I begins with an imaginary trip first to a typical Gesneriad habitat in Malaya, then to the home of the *Saintpaulia* and *Streptocarpus* in East Africa, and finally to the mountains of the Balkans and Pyrenees to see *Haberlea*, *Jankaea* and *Ramonda*.

Then follow chapters on culture and propagation, pests and diseases, and hybrids and hybridization. Pests and diseases are tabulated in two columns under the headings "Symptom" and "Cause", thus giving a rapid and handy method of diagnosing the trouble in sickly or infected plants. The more important entomological, pathological and physiological troubles, as well as methods of control, are fully discussed.

Part II is confined mainly to the enumeration and description of the Gesneriads in cultivation in the United States of America. Considerable care has been taken to simplify and to explain the inevitable botanical terminology as well as some of the rules of nomenclature. There is a key to the genera which are grouped according to important morphological characters such as tubers, scaly rhizomes, two stamens, glands, etc., as well as keys to species. All keys are illustrated by most excellent line drawings.

Five appendices comprise the third part of the book; an alphabetical list of the accepted names, with synonyms, authorities, places of publication and illustrations; the pronunciation and meaning of names; chromosome numbers of a representative number of species; a comprehensive bibliography and a useful glossary.

It is doubtful if this book can have as wide a demand in Britain as it assuredly will have with the many African Violet and Gesneriad enthusiasts of the United States, British dwelling-houses so far being more suitable for the growing of Aspidistras than for choice gesners. However, for both professional and amateur gardeners, as well as for those concerned mainly with the taxonomy of the family, this book will be extremely useful.

P. J. B. WOODS.

* African Violets, Gloxinias, and their relatives, by Harold E. Moore, Jr. New York, The Macmillan Company. 1957. Pp. xii+323, 5 colour plates, 50 text figures. Price ten dollars.